

UNCLASSIFIED Department of State

11/30/79

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-15

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INFO OCT-01 10-14 ADS-00 HA-05 SSO-00 CIAE-00 OODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-00
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
SY-05 MCT-02 SYE-00 /086 W

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O R 382002Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3349
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS

BUENOS AIRES 9806

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/29/75 (FREEMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 22-29, 1979

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9595

1. (U) CAMPORA FREED -----

THE MILITARY FINALLY GRANTED AILING FORMER PRESIDENT
HECTOR CAMPORA HIS SAFE CONDUCT AND HE LEFT THE COUNTRY
FOR MEXICO NOVEMBER 25. THERE APPARENTLY WAS MUCH
PULLING AND HAULING WITHIN THE MILITARY BEFORE IT
FINALLY DECIDED TO LET CAMPORA LEAVE. EVEN THE MOST
COMMITTED HARDLINERS WOULD HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME ATTACK-
ING THE DECISION TO ALLOW AN OBVIOUSLY VERY ILL CAMPORA
OUT OF THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, THERE ARE LATE NEWS
STORIES OUT OF MEXICO SUGGESTING THAT MEXICAN DOCTORS
HAVE FOUND THAT CAMPORA DOES NOT REQUIRE URGENT
SURGERY. THIS COULD BE "STRAIGHT" NEWS, BUT ALREADY
JOURNALISTS HERE ARE SPECULATING THAT A ZPLANT" TOOK
PLACE TO EMBARRASS ONE SIDE OR ANOTHER (E.G. THE
"SOFTLINERS" HAD VOTED TO LET CAMPORA GO).

2. (U) COURT ORDERS 13 CREED -----

A BUENOS AIRES APPEALS COURT ORDERED THE GOVERNMENT TO
FREE 13 WOMEN PRESENTLY BEING HELD UNDER PEN BECAUSE
THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SHOWN ADEQUATE CAUSE TO HOLD
THEM. THE SAME COURT DECIDED IT WAS COMPETENT TO
DECIDE IF ANOTHER 51 INDIVIDUALS BEING HELD UNDER PEN
WERE CORRECTLY DETAINED. IT REJECTED 30 OTHER HABEAS
CORPUS DETENTIONS. THE APPEALS COURT DOES NOT SEEM
TO HAVE BROKEN ANY NEW GROUND WITH ITS DECISIONS, EVEN
THE ONE ORDERING THE FREEING OF THE 13 WOMEN. WE
UNDERSTAND THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROBABLY APPEAL THE
DECISION FREEING THEM TO THE SUPREME COURT, WHICH IN
THE PAST HAS GENERALLY REVERSED THE APPEALS COURTS ON
THE GROUNDS THAT THE ALLEGATION THAT INDIVIDUALS
ASSOCIATED WITH TERRORIST OR SUBVERSIVE GROUPS WAS
SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR DETAINING THEM UNDER PEN.

3. PEN REDUCTIONS -----

A WELL INFORMED AND HIGH LEVEL GOA SOURCE HAS TOLD US
THAT THE PEN LIST IS NOW DOWN TO ABOUT 1300. HE WENT
ON TO STATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REDUCE THE
PEN LIST TO ABOUT 1000 BY THE END OF THE YEAR. HE ADDED
THAT BY THE END OF 1980 THERE SHOULD BE NO MORE THAN
400-500 PEOPLE STILL UNDER PEN. HE ASSERTED THAT THESE
WILL BE INDIVIDUALS ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS AMPL

EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE--OR WERE--TERRORISTS. BUT IS UN-
ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THIS IN A COURT. (OTHER SOURCES HAVE
TOLD US THAT THE NUMBER THAT WILL BE HELD IS CLOSER TO
700-800, AND THAT MANY OF THEM ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO ONCE
BENEFITED FROM THE CAMPORA AMNESTY AND CANNOT BE RE-
TRIED FOR THE CRIMES THEY HAD COMMITTED). THE SOURCE'S
FIGURE OF ABOUT 1300 PEN DETAINEES IS FAIRLY CLOSE TO
WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEDUCE BY PIECING TOGETHER
REPORTS OF RECENT RELEASES. THE SOURCE NOTED THAT A
NUMBER OF PEOPLE RELEASED FROM PRISON ARE BEING PLACED
UNDER "SUPERVISED FREEDOM", ADDING THAT IN SIX MONTHS
PEOPLE IN THIS CATEGORY USUALLY RECEIVE COMPLETE FREEDOM.
WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHY THESE ADVANCES ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS
FRONT ARE NOT BEING ANNOUNCED AS BEFORE, BUT IT COULD
RELATE TO SENSITIVITIES RAISED IN SOME CIRCLES BY THE
TIERMAN RELEASE AND THE AWAITED "CAMPORA CRISIS."

4. FOWG -----

WE HAVE BEEN PUZZLED ABOUT WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT ON
THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
RECENT DEPARTURE OF JUAN CARLOS ARLIA AS ARGENTINA'S
AMBASSADOR IN KENYA. A JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE FOWG
(MARTIN SARABIA) HAS TOLD US THAT IGNACIO PICO ESTRADA
WILL SHORTLY REPLACE ARLIA, BUT THAT THE FOWG WILL
"OPERATE DIFFERENTLY." WE BELIEVE THAT MEANS WITH LESS
INDEPENDENCE AND AUTHORITY."

CASTRO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as _____ () Extend as _____ () Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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